



May 5, 2005

530 C Alameda del Prado #139

Novato, CA 94949

(415) 883-3854

(415) 883-3850 Fax

www.sfbayjv.org

Dan Ray, Grants Officer
California Bay-Delta Authority
Ecosystem Restoration Program
650 Capitol Mall, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

FAX: (916) 445-7297

MANAGEMENT BOARD:

Bay Area Audubon Council
Bay Area Open Space Council
Bay Planning Coalition
Citizens Committee to
Complete the Refuge
Ducks Unlimited
National Audubon Society
Point Reyes Bird Observatory
PG&E Corporation
Save San Francisco Bay
Association
Sierra Club
The Bay Institute
The Conservation Fund
Urban Creeks Council

**SUBJECT: Endorsement of Monitoring Proposal
*Petaluma Marsh Expansion Project***

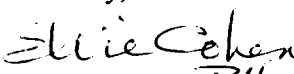
Dear Mr. Ray:

I am writing on behalf of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture to convey support for the application from the Marin Audubon Society in the amount of \$235,000 to fund monitoring of the Petaluma marsh Expansion project, a project for which CALFED provided partial funding for construction.

The San Francisco Bay Joint Venture is a partnership of non-governmental organizations, utilities, landowners, and non-voting agencies working to acquire, restore, and enhance 200,000 acres of wetlands in San Francisco Bay. The San Francisco Bay Joint Venture is one of the twelve wetland habitat joint ventures operating under the certification of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, a Congressional agreement between the United States, Canada, and Mexico. In addition to the securing and restoring a targeted number of acres for each habitat type as specified in "*Restoring the Estuary, the Implementation Strategy of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture*", joint ventures are now being requested by Congress and the Administration to monitor and document success of projects toward habitat restoration and ecosystem function.

Adequate monitoring at this location is particularly important because it will yield valuable information about restoration of the only site immediately adjacent to the ancient Petaluma Marsh, one of the largest remaining natural marshes on the West Coast. This project furthers the goals of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture by ensuring adequate monitoring of the tidal marsh expansion project. This project, as proposed, will enable monitoring beyond the limited scope of vegetation and hydrology that was required by regulatory agencies. The additional funding will provide for monitoring of physical processes, plant, birds, fish and primary productivity, information that is important to the Joint Venture as we assess project success in the context of Joint Venture goals. The project also integrates the monitoring with CALFED's Integrated Regional Wetland Monitoring Project

Sincerely,


Ellie Cohen
Chair

Ex-Officio Members:

Bay Conservation &
Development Commission
California Department
of Fish and Game
California Resources Agency
Coastal Conservancy
Coastal Region, Mosquito &
Vector Control District
National Fish and Wildlife
Foundation
National Marine Fisheries
Service
Natural Resources
Conservation Service
Regional Water Quality Control
Board, SF Bay Region
San Francisco Estuary Project
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Wildlife Conservation Board





May 3, 2005

Dan Ray, Grants Officer
California Bay-Delta Authority
Ecosystem Restoration Program
650 Capitol Mall, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
FAX: (916) 445-7297

RE: Monitoring Proposal Titled *Near-field and Far-field Effects of Tidal Wetland Restoration in the Lower Napa*

Dear Mr. Ray:

Ducks Unlimited, Inc. understands the proposal entitled "*Near-field and Far-field Effects of Tidal Wetland Restoration in the Lower Napa*" was not recommended for funding through the California Bay-Delta Authority. Ducks Unlimited would like to encourage the California Bay-Delta Authority to reconsider the decision, and fund this proposal in some capacity. The monitoring activities listed in this proposal are an important aspect of the Napa River Salt Marsh Restoration Project, and the data to be collected could assist with evaluating and making management decisions on this, as well as other current and future projects throughout the San Francisco Bay-Delta system.

The Napa River Salt Marsh Restoration Project, consisting of 6,000 acres of former salt ponds, will be the largest tidal marsh restoration conducted in San Francisco Bay to date. The proposed restoration activities, which include Ponds 1, 1A, 2, 3, 4, and 5, have received significant amounts of funding for planning through the California Bay-Delta Authority and the State Coastal Conservancy. The Wildlife Conservation Board recently awarded a grant to Ducks Unlimited for project implementation and construction management. Without the California Bay-Delta Authority's support of the monitoring, project permitting may be delayed thus impacting the construction activities scheduled for this summer.

Monitoring the physical and biological changes on a watershed scale during and after construction of a single restoration project is an unmatched opportunity. Ducks Unlimited supports monitoring for this project, and requests the California Bay-Delta Authority to recommend that the proposal be categorized as "revise and reconsider."

Sincerely,

Mark Biddlecomb

Director of Conservation Programs

cc: Ryan Broddrick, Al Wright, Patrick Wright



DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY
SAN FRANCISCO DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS
333 MARKET ST.
SAN FRANCISCO, CALIFORNIA 94105-2197

November 16, 2004

Programs and Project Management Division

SUBJECT: Support of Monitoring Proposal: Near-field and Far-field Effects of Tidal Wetland Restoration in Lower Napa River

Mr. Dan Ray
California Bay-Delta Authority
Ecosystem Restoration Program
650 Capitol Mall Parkway, 5th Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Mr. Ray:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), California State Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy), and Department of Fish and Game (DFG) began the Napa Salt Marsh Restoration Feasibility Study in 1998 to analyze alternatives for salinity reduction and habitat restoration in the former Cargill salt ponds in the Napa River Unit of the Napa-Sonoma Marshes State Wildlife Area. This area, consisting of approximately 9,500 acres of former commercial salt ponds and remnant marsh, was purchased from Cargill, Inc. by the State of California in 1994 and is currently managed by DFG.

The Corps, Conservancy, and DFG have each contributed funding and staff time to the Napa Salt Marsh Restoration Feasibility Study, and the agencies released a final feasibility report and environmental impact statement/environmental impact report in June 2004. This report recommends that Congress authorize the Corps to construct a project that would consist of both tidal marsh restoration (in Ponds 4 and 5), and managed pond restoration (in Ponds 6, 6a, 7, 7a, and 8). This project would be cost-shared by the Corps and the state of California. The Conservancy and DFG would restore Ponds 1, 1a, 2, and 3 independently of the Corps. Design of features for Ponds 1, 1a, 2, 3, 4, and 5 is nearing completion. Construction of these features is expected to begin in mid-2005 and to be completed in 2006. Pending Congressional authorization, construction of the remaining ponds should commence as soon as 2007.

The Corps, Conservancy, and DFG have diligently involved a wide range of stakeholders, including public agencies, environmental organizations, researchers, and the interested public. The project has widespread support among regulatory and trustee agencies including the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, which issued a 2003 Biological Opinion (1-1-03-F-0044), and the NOAA-Fisheries, which issued a Letter of Concurrence (LOC; 151422SWR02SR6288: MEM, June 30, 2003).

RECEIVED
CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA AUTHORITY
2004 NOV 19 PM 2:33

The Corps understands that the Conservancy has submitted the subject grant application. The proposed monitoring effort centers on the Corps/Conservancy/DFG Napa Salt Marsh Restoration Project, and would significantly increase the likelihood of realizing the restoration benefits of the project. Adaptive management is an integral component of the project, and monitoring and adaptive management results will determine whether Ponds 6 and 6a are restored to tidal marsh 10 to 15 years after the start of construction.

The proposed monitoring program described in the Conservancy's grant application will enhance the overall understanding of the restoration process in the project area and the effect of this large-scale restoration project on other restoration projects and the Napa River in the vicinity to complement the existing baseline monitoring in the project area, and comprehensive post-construction monitoring of the entire area in 2007 and 2008.

CALFED funding of any portion of the Napa Salt Marsh Restoration Project is likely to help the Corps/Conservancy/DFG partnership successfully restore vital habitat in the San Francisco Bay region. Any state CALFED funds provided to the Conservancy or DFG for work directly applicable to the Napa Salt Marsh Restoration Project could be applied to the state's share of a Corps project authorized for implementation by Congress. If you have questions regarding this letter, please contact Lynne Galal, at (415) 977-8712, or by email at Lgalal@spd.usace.army.mil.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Philip T. Feir", is positioned above the printed name.

Philip T. Feir
Lieutenant Colonel, U.S. Army
Commanding



COUNTY of NAPA

ROBERT J. PETERSON, P.E.
District Engineer

May 4, 2005

78:2 114 6-174 8032
1000 1000 1000
1000 1000 1000

Dan Ray, Grants Officer
California Bay-Delta Authority
Ecosystem Restoration Program
650 Capitol Mall, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mr. Ray:

The Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District supports the efforts to restore the former commercial salt ponds on the lower Napa River and encourages the California Bay-Delta Authority to fund the State Coastal Conservancy's grant proposal: *Near-field and Far-field Effects of Tidal Wetland Restoration in the Lower Napa River*. The Napa River, which runs 55 miles from the Mayacamas Mountain Range to the San Pablo Bay and drains a 426 square mile watershed, supports a diversity of fish and wildlife. The Napa River is considered one of the most significant anadromous fish streams within San Francisco Bay, after the Delta.

There are a number of ongoing and proposed projects along the Napa River to restore wetland habitat. The Napa County Flood Control and Water Conservation District, with the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, is implementing the award-winning Napa River Flood Management Plan, based on the "Living River" design. As part of this project, over 650 acres of tidal wetlands have been restored downstream of the City of Napa and upstream of the former salt ponds (the South Wetlands Opportunity Area). Several other wetland restoration projects in the lower Napa River are also being planned, including Cullinan Ranch, the Napa Plant Site on the east side of the River, the American Canyon wetlands project, and the Napa River Salt Marsh Restoration Project (the former Cargill salt ponds). The Napa River Salt Marsh will be the largest tidal restoration conducted to date in San Francisco Bay, consisting of 3,000 acres of former salt ponds (Ponds 3, 4, and 5) that will be breached during 2005 and 2006 and opened to full tidal action. Monitoring the results of this tidal wetlands restoration in the lower Napa River is essential to understand the effects of restoration on fish and wildlife, to make decisions about future restoration actions in the lower Napa River, and for other restoration or management work in San Francisco Bay, Suisun Marsh, and the Delta.

Tidal wetland restoration in the Napa River is predicted to benefit a similar suite of fish as are in Suisun Marsh and the Delta, namely Steelhead Trout, Sacramento splittail, and Delta smelt. In fact, monitoring of the South Wetlands Opportunity Area between 2001 and 2004 revealed an abundance of Sacramento

NAPA COUNTY FLOOD CONTROL AND WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

804 First Street • Napa, CA 94559-2623 • (707) 259-8600 • FAX (707) 259-8619

www.co.napa.ca.us/departments/publicworks

www.napaflooddistrict.org

splittail, as well as Pacific herring and staghorn sculpin, and the presence of steelhead trout, Chinook salmon, and Delta smelt. The State Coastal Conservancy proposes to work with many of the same researchers to conduct the fish monitoring as part of their study of restoration of Ponds 3, 4, and 5.

A number of fish species in the Delta appear to be experiencing rapid population declines for reasons that are not well understood. The proposed project offers an opportunity to examine some of the factors in this decline by monitoring the benefit to the fish from large-scale tidal restoration efforts on the lower Napa River. The Napa River shares many of the same attributes as the Delta but on a smaller scale, providing an opportunity to understand the effects of large-scale tidal wetland habitat restoration on fish in the absence of significant hydrologic manipulation.

Along with monitoring fish presence and abundance, the State Coastal Conservancy will also monitor physical evolution of the tidal habitat, hydrologic effects, and the effects of the restoration on other wildlife, including migratory birds and endangered species. The team, which includes USGS, Jones and Stokes, Stillwater, Napa County Resource Conservation District, U.C. Davis, and Philip Williams and Associates, is well qualified and has significant experience conducting monitoring work in the Napa River.

In summary, we encourage the California Bay-Delta Authority to fund the proposal *Near-field and Far-field Effects of Tidal Wetland Restoration in the Lower Napa River*.

Sincerely,



Jill Techel
Chairperson
Board of Directors

JT:gm

cc: Board of Directors
Senator Barbara Boxer



2005 MAY -9 PM 2:34
CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA AUTHORITY

May 3, 2005

Dan Ray, Grants Officer
California Bay-Delta Authority
Ecosystem Restoration Program
650 Capitol Mall, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814
FAX: (916) 445-7297

Dear Mr. Ray:

The State Coastal Conservancy strongly encourages the California Bay-Delta Authority to recommend that our proposal entitled "Near-field and Far-field Effects of Tidal Wetland Restoration in the Lower Napa" be categorized as "revise and reconsider" versus "do not fund", as initially recommended by the Selection Panel. In addition, if the budget is a consideration in the decision, we recommend reducing the budget versus not funding the entire \$2.7 million request. The State Coastal Conservancy would then be able to work with USGS and the other proposal partners to revise to meet the external review comments and to decrease the budget, and the project can be reconsidered.

The Napa River Salt Marsh Restoration Project will be the largest tidal restoration conducted to date in San Francisco Bay, consisting of 3,000 acres of former salt ponds (Ponds 3, 4, and 5) that will be breached during 2005 and 2006 and opened to full tidal action. A significant amount of state funding has been committed towards the planning and implementation of the restoration project to date. The California Bay-Delta Authority has contributed approximately \$4.5 million towards the planning, baseline monitoring, and restoration of Pond 3, 4, and 5. The Wildlife Conservation Board is providing approximately \$12 million for construction, construction management, and construction related monitoring for Ponds 1, 1A, 2, 3, 4, and 5. The State Coastal Conservancy provided approximately \$1.5 million to complete the Feasibility Study and EIR/EIS for the restoration of the Napa River Salt Marsh Project. Funding for this monitoring proposal would be well matched by other funders and would build upon the state funds that have already gone towards the project.

Monitoring of the results of the restoration work (including physical changes, vegetation rates, and fish and bird use) is essential to make decisions about future actions in the Napa Marsh and for other restoration or management work in San Francisco Bay, Suisun Marsh, and the Delta. Without the California Bay-Delta Authority's support of the monitoring proposal, monitoring will most likely be limited to simply meeting the requirements of permits, potentially missing an opportunity to understand the effects of large-scale restoration in the San Francisco-Bay Delta Estuary.

1330 Broadway, 11th Floor

Oakland, California 94612-2530

510-286-1015 Fax: 510-286-0470

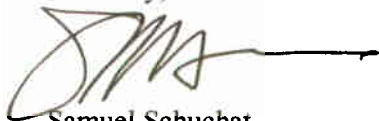


The Napa River Salt Marsh Restoration Project is predicted to benefit a similar suite of fish as are in Suisun Marsh and the Delta, namely Steelhead Trout (the Napa River supports the Coastal ESU), Sacramento splittail, and Delta smelt. Monitoring the physical and biological changes associated with restoration of Ponds 3, 4, and 5 could contribute towards understanding the effects of tidal restoration and changing salinity regimes that could be applied to the Bay-Delta Authority's efforts in Suisun Marsh and the Delta. The Napa River shares many of the same attributes as the Delta, with a watershed that is a mix of open space, agriculture, and development, a significant area subject to tidal influence, and a similar suite of wildlife. The Napa River, however, is not dammed and does not have major withdrawals of water, providing an opportunity to understand the effects of large-scale tidal wetland habitat restoration on fish in the absence of large-scale hydrologic manipulation.

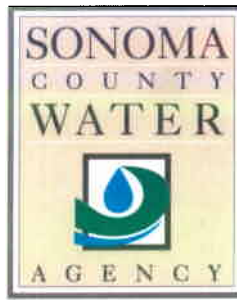
The "Near-field and Far-field Effects of Tidal Wetland Restoration in the Lower Napa" proposal was rated "very high" by the Bay Regional review panel, who stated that "the study results of this proposal will provide valuable information to future restoration projects and successful large scale planning in the South Bay, San Pablo Bay and the Suisun Marsh." The Technical Panel's critical comments focused on the conceptual model, the hypotheses, consistency of methods, and performance measures. These can be addressed in a revised proposal, and do not reflect on the merits of the project, the capabilities of the applicants, or the need for monitoring of this restoration project. For example, the Technical Panel states that "a simple table showing how the BACI framework will be applied to the major sampling efforts would have helped to answer most of [our] questions." This table, as well as revisions to and scientific documentation for the conceptual model and hypotheses and inclusion of performance measures, can be produced if the project is categorized as "revise and reconsider." In addition, most of the external technical reviews were positive, with constructive criticism that can be addressed.

In summary, we encourage the California Bay-Delta Authority to recommend that the proposal entitled "Near-field and Far-field Effects of Tidal Wetland Restoration in the Lower Napa" be categorized as "revise and reconsider" at either the original budget amount or at a reduced budget amount. You can contact Amy Hutzel at (510) 286-4180 if there are questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to be 'SS', followed by a horizontal line extending to the right.

Samuel Schuchat
Executive Officer



FILE:WC/45-0-1 NAPA SALT MARSH RESTORATION

May 4, 2005

Dan Ray, Grants Officer
California Bay-Delta Authority
Ecosystem Restoration Program
650 Capitol Mall, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

**RE: NEAR-FIELD AND FAR-FIELD EFFECTS OF TIDAL WETLAND
RESTORATION IN THE LOWER NAPA RIVER**

Dear Mr. Ray:

The Sonoma County Water Agency has played a significant role in the Napa River Salt Marsh Restoration Project and is very supportive of the effort to understand and learn from the outcomes of this important restoration project. We strongly encourage the California Bay-Delta Authority to recommend that the State Coastal Conservancy's grant proposal entitled "Near-field and Far-field Effects of Tidal Wetland Restoration in the Lower Napa River" be funded.

The first phase of the Napa River Salt Marsh Restoration Project under construction this year by the California Department of Fish and Game includes tidal restoration of 3,000 acres of former salt ponds (Ponds 3, 4, and 5). Monitoring the physical and biological results of the restoration will help the involved agencies make better decisions about future actions in the Napa Marsh and will provide insights for other restoration projects throughout the Bay and Delta.

As you know, several fish species in the Delta appear to be experiencing rapid population declines for reasons that are not well understood. The proposed project offers an opportunity to examine some of the factors in this decline by monitoring the benefit to the fish from the tidal restoration effort. The monitoring work may explain some of the reasons for the decline in the Delta which may contribute to the recovery of these at-risk fish.

We encourage the California Bay-Delta Authority to fund the State Coastal Conservancy's grant proposal, "Near-field and Far-field Effects of Tidal Wetland Restoration in the Lower Napa River".

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Poole".

Randy Poole
General Manager/Chief Engineer

20 MAY - 9 PM 2005

rs3/u/cl/rw/pubinf/Anderson/CALFED support letter SCWA-50305



May 5, 2005

530 C Alameda del Prado #139

Novato, CA 94949

(415) 883-3854

(415) 883-3850 Fax

www.sfbayjv.org

Dan Ray, Grants Officer
California Bay-Delta Authority
Ecosystem Restoration Program
650 Capitol Mall, 5th Floor
Sacramento, CA 95814

FAX: (916) 445-7297

MANAGEMENT BOARD:

Bay Area Audubon Council
Bay Area Open Space Council
Bay Planning Coalition
Citizens Committee to
Complete the Refuge
Ducks Unlimited
National Audubon Society
Point Reyes Bird Observatory
PG&E Corporation
Save San Francisco Bay
Association
Sierra Club
The Bay Institute
The Conservation Fund
Urban Creeks Council

Ex-Officio Members:

Bay Conservation &
Development Commission
California Department
of Fish and Game
California Resources Agency
Coastal Conservancy
Coastal Region, Mosquito &
Vector Control District
National Fish and Wildlife
Foundation
National Marine Fisheries
Service
Natural Resources
Conservation Service
Regional Water Quality Control
Board, SF Bay Region
San Francisco Estuary Project
U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
U.S. Environmental
Protection Agency
U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service
Wildlife Conservation Board

SUBJECT: Endorsement of Monitoring Proposal
Restoration of the Napa-Sonoma Salt Ponds and the Lower Napa River Ecosystem: Near-field and Far-field Effects of Tidal Wetland Restoration

Dear Mr. Ray:

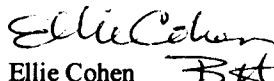
I am writing on behalf of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture to encourage the California Bay-Delta Authority to recommend that the proposal entitled "Near-field and Far-field Effects of Tidal Wetland Restoration in the Lower Napa" be categorized as "revise and reconsider" versus "do not fund", as initially recommended by the Selection Panel. If the cost of the project was the major consideration in the decision to not recommend the project for funding, we suggest providing the State Coastal Conservancy with the opportunity to revise the project and reduce the budget versus not funding the entire \$2.7 million request so that the project can be reconsidered.

The San Francisco Bay Joint Venture is a partnership of non-governmental organizations, utilities, landowners, and non-voting agencies working to acquire, restore, and enhance 200,000 acres of wetlands in San Francisco Bay. The San Francisco Bay Joint Venture is one of the twelve wetland habitat joint ventures operating under the certification of the North American Waterfowl Management Plan, a Congressional agreement between the United States, Canada, and Mexico. In addition to the securing and restoring a targeted number of acres for each habitat type as specified in "*Restoring the Estuary, the Implementation Strategy of the San Francisco Bay Joint Venture*", joint ventures are now being requested by Congress and the Administration to monitor and document success of projects toward habitat restoration and ecosystem function.

A comprehensive monitoring program centered on the Napa Sonoma Marshes will not only provide information to CALFED, it will also be beneficial to demonstrating how the restoration of Napa Sonoma Marshes will provide functioning wetland habitats that also meet Joint Venture goals. Most importantly, the proposed monitoring program will enhance the overall understanding of the restoration process in the project area, and the effect of this large-scale restoration project on other restoration projects and the Napa River in the vicinity of the project area.

We urge CALFED to consider changing the recommendation to "revise and consider".

Sincerely,


Ellie Cohen
Chair



RESOURCES LEGACY FUND

November 4, 2004

Mr. Dan Ray
California Bay-Delta Authority
Ecosystem Restoration Program
650 Capitol Mall Parkway, 5th Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

RECEIVED
CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA AUTHORITY
2004 NOV -5 PM 2:10

SUBJECT: Endorsement of Monitoring Proposal
*Restoration of the Napa-Sonoma Salt Ponds and the Lower Napa River Ecosystem:
Near-field and Far-field Effects of Tidal Wetland Restoration*

Dear Mr. Ray:

The Resources Legacy Fund, a non-profit organization, has been very active in the preservation and enhancement of wildlife habitat in California, with recent planning and financial involvement in the acquisition of 16,000 acres of historic wetlands and upland habitat from Cargill, Inc. We continue to be involved in this project as a partner with the California Department of Fish and Game (DFG), the Coastal Conservancy and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service during the Initial Stewardship and Long Term Restoration Planning phases of this historic wetlands project. In fact, we are currently working with DFG and others to develop a Long Term Restoration plan for lands acquired from Cargill in the Napa Marsh (Napa Crystallizer Ponds).

We remain committed to wetland restoration in the San Francisco and strongly support the grant application entitled *Restoration of the Napa-Sonoma Salt Ponds and the Lower Napa River Ecosystem: Near-field and Far-field Effects of Tidal Wetland Restoration* being submitted by the California State Coastal Conservancy. We encourage CALFED to consider funding the proposed effort. The monitoring effort centers on the Napa Salt Marsh Restoration Project, an approximately 9,500-acre area that includes tidal marsh and managed pond restoration. Design of the tidal marsh restoration and a portion of the managed pond restoration is nearing completion. Construction is expected to begin in mid-2005 and be completed in 2006. Adaptive Management is an integral component of the project, and monitoring and adaptive management results will determine whether two additional ponds are restored to tidal marsh 10 to 15 years after the start of construction.

The proposed monitoring program described in the Conservancy's grant application (submitted in response to the Ecosystem Restoration Program Proposal Solicitation) will enhance the overall understanding of the restoration process in the project area, and the effect of this large-scale restoration project on other restoration projects and the Napa River in the vicinity of the project area. The grant application proposes to continue monitoring "after" construction, and will include pre- and post-construction monitoring of selected sites downstream, adjacent, and upstream of the restoration to examine near-field and far-field effects on hydrology and fish and avian communities in the ecosystem. The proposal consists of a baseline monitoring phase in the project vicinity to complement the existing baseline monitoring in the project area, and comprehensive post-construction monitoring of the entire area in 2007 and 2008.

555 Capitol Mall Suite 1255 Sacramento, California 95814

916.442.5057 916.325.7541 (fax) www.resourceslegacyfund.org

CALFED recognized the value of this project by providing a \$4.5 million grant for design, construction, and monitoring of the tidal restoration component of the project in 2002. As part of the existing grant, baseline monitoring of the entire pond complex is being conducted by USGS under contract to the Conservancy. Baseline monitoring began in November 2003, and built on previous monitoring conducted by USGS and others in the same area.

The proposed monitoring program will build on and integrate monitoring efforts that have occurred at a number of nearby projects (including the White Slough, South Wetland Opportunity Area, Cullinan Ranch, Guadalcanal, and City of American Canyon wetlands restoration projects and the Napa River Flood Control Project), as well as related CALFED initiatives, such as the Integrated Regional Wetlands Monitoring Program (IRWM). The proposed monitoring effort will provide valuable baseline information for upcoming restoration projects, including the Napa Crystallizer Ponds (Phase I construction is scheduled to begin in spring 2007), and the Cullinan Ranch project.

We urge your approval of this grant request. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "W. John Schmidt". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

W. John Schmidt
Executive Director

Friends of the Napa River

68 Coombs St. Bldg B • Napa, CA 94559
Phone (707) 254-8520 • Fax (707) 254-8547
napariv@aol.com • www.friendsofthenapariver.org

November 8, 2004

Mr. Dan Ray
California Bay-Delta Authority
Ecosystem Restoration Program
650 Capitol Mall Parkway, 5th Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

2004 Nov 15 PM 1:56

RECEIVED
CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA AUTHORITY
NOV 15 2004

SUBJECT: Endorsement of Monitoring Proposal
*Restoration of the Napa-Sonoma Salt Ponds and the Lower Napa River Ecosystem:
Near-field and Far-field Effects of Tidal Wetland Restoration*

Dear Mr. Ray:

Friends of the Napa River (FONR) is dedicated to the restoration, protection and celebration of the Napa River and its watershed. A co-sponsor of the Coalition for a Flood Management Plan, Friends of the Napa River continues to play a critical role in shaping this project to restore the Napa River for the benefit of wildlife and aesthetic enjoyment of the communities in the Napa River Valley.

FONR strongly supports the grant application entitled *Restoration of the Napa-Sonoma Salt Ponds and the Lower Napa River Ecosystem: Near-field and Far-field Effects of Tidal Wetland Restoration* being submitted by the California State Coastal Conservancy. We encourage CALFED to consider funding the proposed effort. The monitoring effort centers on the Napa Salt Marsh Restoration project, an approximately 9,500-acre area that includes tidal marsh and managed pond restoration. Design of the tidal marsh restoration and a portion of the managed pond restoration are nearing completion. Construction is expected to begin in mid-2005 and be completed in 2006. Adaptive Management is an integral component of the project, and monitoring and adaptive management results will determine whether two additional ponds are restored to tidal marsh 10 to 15 years after the start of construction.

The proposed monitoring program described in the Conservancy's grant application (submitted in response to the Ecosystem Restoration Program Proposal Solicitation) will enhance the overall understanding of the restoration process in the project area, and the effect of this large-scale restoration project on other restoration projects and the Napa River in the vicinity of the project area. The grant application proposes to continue monitoring "after" construction, and will include pre- and post-construction monitoring of selected sites downstream, adjacent, and upstream of the restoration to examine near-field and far-field effects on hydrology and fish and avian communities in the ecosystem. The proposal consists of a baseline-monitoring phase in the project vicinity to complement the existing baseline monitoring in the project area, and comprehensive post-construction monitoring of the entire area in 2007 and 2008.

CALFED recognized the value of this project by providing a \$4.5 million grant for design, construction, and monitoring of the tidal restoration component of the project in 2002. As part of the existing grant, baseline monitoring of the entire pond complex is being conducted by USGS under contract to the Conservancy. Baseline monitoring began in November 2003, and built on previous monitoring conducted by USGS and others in the same area.

The proposed monitoring program will build on and integrate monitoring efforts that have occurred at a number of nearby projects (including the White Slough, South Wetland Opportunity Area, Cullinan Ranch, Guadalcanal, and City of American Canyon wetlands restoration projects and the Napa River Flood Control Project), as well as related CALFED initiatives, such as the Integrated Regional Wetlands Monitoring Program (IRWM). The proposed monitoring effort will provide valuable baseline information for upcoming restoration projects, including the Napa Crystallizer Ponds (Phase I construction is scheduled to begin in Spring 2007), and the Cullinan Ranch project.

Other information:

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers (Corps), California State Coastal Conservancy (Conservancy), and California Department of Fish and Game (DFG) began the planning process for the Napa Salt Marsh Restoration Project in 1997. The Federal feasibility study phase is expected to conclude with the completion of a Chief's Report in late November 2004. This nearly 9,500-acre area was purchased by the State of California from Cargill, Inc. in 1994, and is managed by DFG as the Napa River Unit of the Napa-Sonoma Marshes State Wildlife Area.

The Corps, Conservancy, and DFG have all contributed staff time and funding to the project, and the EIS, EIR, and Corps Feasibility Report have been completed. The project will consist of both tidal marsh restoration (in Ponds 3, 4, and 5), and managed pond restoration (in the remaining ponds). An unplanned breach to Pond 3 in August 2002 is demonstrating the ability of the system to respond to the reintroduction of tidal flow. Historic slough channels are starting to reestablish, and initial marsh vegetation colonization has been observed in some of the higher elevation portions of this pond.

The Corps, Conservancy, and DFG have diligently involved a wide range of stakeholders, including public agencies, environmental organizations, researchers, and the interested public. The project has widespread support among regulatory and trustee agencies. In 2003, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a Biological Opinion (1-1-03-F-0044) which concluded that the project was consistent with special-status species recovery objectives, was not likely to jeopardize the continued existence of special status species found within the area, and would not destroy or adversely modify any critical habitat. The opinion included an Incidental Take Statement for the California Clapper Rail, salt marsh harvest mouse, western snowy plover (*Charadrius alexandrinus nivosus*), delta smelt (*Hypomesus transpacificus*) and Sacramento splittail (*Pogonichthys macrolepidotus*).

The NOAA-Fisheries issued a Letter of Concurrence (LOC; 151422SWR02SR6288: MEM) for the project on June 30, 2003 concluding that the project was not likely to adversely affect endangered and threatened salmonid species or designated critical habitat, and that Essential Fish Habitat Conservation Recommendations were not necessary.

In conclusion, let me add that FONR is very much interested in supporting these efforts through our member volunteer programs.



Bernhard Krevet
President, Friends of the Napa River



PAMELA A. MILLER
Clerk of the Board

RECEIVED
CALIFORNIA BAY-DELTA AUTHORITY
FEB 9 2005

2005 FEB -9 PM 2:56

COUNTY of NAPA

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

1195 Third Street, Suite 310, Napa, CA 94559
Office (707) 253-4386 FAX (707) 253-4176

February 8, 2005

Mr. Dan Ray
California Bay-Delta Authority
Ecosystem Restoration Program
650 Capitol Mall Parkway, 5th Floor
Sacramento, California 95814

SUBJECT: Support of Monitoring Proposal by State Coastal Conservancy

*Restoration of the Napa-Sonoma Salt Ponds and the Lower Napa River
Ecosystem: Near-Field and Far-Field Effects of Tidal Wetland Restoration*

Dear Mr. Ray:

The Napa County Board of Supervisors is supportive of the California State Coastal Conservancy's grant proposal to the Ecosystem Restoration Program for the monitoring of Tidal Wetland Restoration effects. The proposal is well aligned with the mission of the Watershed Information Center & Conservancy (WICC) of Napa County, which is to guide and support community efforts to maintain and improve the health of Napa County's watershed lands. The WICC Board, which serves as an advisory committee to the County Board of Supervisors, has recommended that the County support the proposed grant. The proposed work plan is an integral part of fostering watershed-based assessment efforts that will ultimately lead to improved land management practices and hopefully the de-listing of the Napa River as an impaired water body. The WICC, which is supported by the County's Conservation, Development and Planning Department, is capable of becoming a collaborating partner in the proposed work effort should funding be awarded for the grant proposal.

Napa County has continually shown its dedication in matters addressing watershed health and management. Our staff is committed to working closely with the State Coastal Conservancy in support of the restoration measures and monitoring associated the Napa-Sonoma Salt Pond effort. The grant application submitted by the State Coastal Conservancy for your consideration is complementary to the on-going and planned data compilation and assessment work already underway and funded by the County (e.g. - countywide environmental Baseline Data Report (BDR) \$1.6 million). The BDR work is intended to support the County's General Plan Update, as well as supporting the CEQA process necessary for permit processing.

BRAD WAGENKNECHT
DISTRICT 1

MARK LUCE
DISTRICT 2

DIANE DILLON
DISTRICT 3

BILL DODD
DISTRICT 4

HAROLD MOSKOWITZ
DISTRICT 5

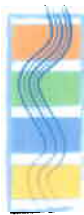
The proposed monitoring program described in the Coastal Conservancy's grant application will enhance the overall understanding of the restoration process in the project area and the effect of a large-scale restoration project on other restoration projects in the lower Napa River basin. The grant application proposes continued monitoring "after" construction, and will include pre- and post-construction monitoring of selected sites downstream, adjacent, and upstream of the restoration area, thereby examining near-field and far-field effects on hydrology, fish and avian communities within the ecosystem. The proposal includes a baseline-monitoring phase that complements existing information and a comprehensive post-construction monitoring element of the entire area in 2007 and 2008.

CALFED has previously recognized the value of this project by generously providing \$4.5 million for design, construction, and monitoring for the 2002 tidal restoration component of the project. The proposal submitted by the California State Coastal Conservancy further leverages these funds and previous monitoring efforts to gain a better understanding of the complexity and environmental benefits of tidal wetland restoration. For these reasons and others discussed above, Napa County is supportive of the proposed work plan and would request your favorable consideration of the Coastal Conservancy's proposal.

Sincerely,



Diane Dillon
Chair,
Napa County Board of Supervisors



sacramento river
conservation area
forum
a voice for all interests

2440 Main Street
Red Bluff, Ca. 96080
T.530-528.7411
F.530.528.7422

www.sacramentoriver.ca.gov

March 23, 2005

Gregory Golet,
The Nature Conservancy
Re: CALFED Monitoring PSP

Dear Dr. Golet

The Sacramento River Conservation Area Forum welcomes the opportunity to comment regarding your CALFED Monitoring PSP that recently came before our organization. The project involves a Riparian Restoration Performance monitoring activity between Sacramento River Miles 144 and 244 in Butte, Colusa, Glenn, and Tehama Counties. This project is listed as Project #28 in the "Project Tracker" system on our website at: www.sacramentoriver.ca.gov. Please keep this project updated as it progresses.

On March 1st, 2005, you presented this project to our Technical Advisory Committee for review and comment. The project was determined to be consistent with the principles and guidelines of the SRCA Forum Handbook and was forwarded to the SRCAF Board of Directors with that recommendation.

On March 17, 2005, the project was presented to the SRCA Forum Board of Directors and was found to be consistent with the principles and guidelines of the SRCA Forum Handbook with no objections noted at this time.

We appreciate the effort your organization has made in bringing these projects to the Forum and your recognition of the value of the principles and guidelines of the Handbook. We look forward to your continued coordination with SRCAF and the local contacts on this project as well as any future project proposals.

Sincerely,

Burt Bundy, Manager
SRCA Forum

Cc: CALFED ERP Monitoring PSP